

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-8 and 11-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 12 and 13 have been amended. Claims 2-5, 9, 10, 14 and 15 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file a divisional application including non-elected claims 3-5, 9, 10, 14 and 15.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Drawings

Applicant notes the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings as filed along with the present application on September 25, 2003.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ishizuka et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,617,801) in view of the Tsuji reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,652). This rejection, insofar as it may pertain to the presently pending claims, is traversed for the following reasons.

The method of driving a display panel of claim 1 includes in combination among other features variably controlling a constant current value for driving the respective

data lines "by comparing a voltage of the respective data lines with a reference voltage". Applicant respectfully submits that the method of driving a display panel of claim 1 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner has asserted that the Ishizuka et al. reference teaches all the features of claim 1, except for variably controlling a constant current value for driving the respective data lines. In an effort to overcome this acknowledged deficiency, the Examiner has asserted that the Tsuji reference variably controls a constant current value by comparing a voltage of respective data lines with a reference voltage. The Examiner has directed attention to Fig. 2, items 31-35 and column 7, lines 49-65 of the Tsuji reference. The Examiner has alleged that it would have been obvious to incorporate the teachings of the Tsuji reference into the system of the Ishizuka et al. reference to correct image data amplitude to compensate for light emission characteristic differences.

The Examiner has apparently interpreted counter 33 in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference as providing a reference voltage to comparators 34. However, as described in column 7, lines 59-62 of the Tsuji reference, data comparators 34 compare pixel level data with the value output from counter 33 as clocked by a pixel level reference clock used as the counter clock. That is, each of comparators 34 of the Tsuji reference compare an output data from a corresponding one of memory circuits 32 with an output value from counter 33, to thereby control the flow of constant current in each current

line for a driver pulse width interval corresponding to the pixel level data value.

Comparators 34 thus receive from counter 33 a variable value, not a reference voltage.

The Tsuji reference as relied upon by the Examiner thus does not overcome the acknowledged deficiencies of the Ishizuka et al. reference. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the method of driving a display panel of claim 1 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner taken singularly or together, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 1 and 6, is improper for at least these reasons.

The drive of a display panel of claim 7 includes in combination among other features comparison means "provided in each of the data lines, each for outputting a control signal by comparing a reference voltage from a reference voltage generator with a potential of the respective data lines".

As asserted above, counter 33 of the Tsuji reference provides an output value for controlling the flow of constant current in each current line for a driver pulse width interval corresponding to the pixel level data value. Counter 33 thus provides a variable value. Counter 33 of the Tsuji reference is not a reference voltage generator and does not provide a reference voltage. The Tsuji reference therefore does not overcome the acknowledged deficiencies of the Ishizuka et al. reference. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the drive of a display panel of claim 7 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner taken singularly or together, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 7, 8 and 11, is

improper for at least these reasons.

The drive of a display panel of 12 includes in combination among other features a comparator "provided in each of the data lines, the comparators output a control signal by comparing a reference voltage from a voltage regulator with a potential of respective data lines".

Applicant respectfully submits that counter 33 of the Tsuji reference is not a voltage generator and does not output a reference voltage. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the drive of a display panel of claim 12 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner taken singularly or together, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 12 and 13, is improper for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

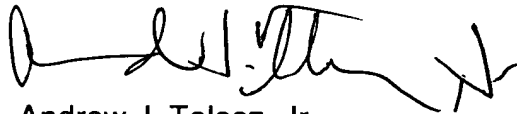
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of three (3) months to February 28, 2007, for the period in

which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$1020.00 should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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